Shortage of Fertilizers

503. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the "Statesman" (Calcutta) on 7th November, 1998 captioned 'BURDWAN POTATO CROP HIT BY FERTILIZER SCARCITY';

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether similar shortages are being faced in other areas of potato cultivation in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far to make up the deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Muriate of Potash (MOP) is a decontrolled fertiliser and, therefore, Government of India do not control its distribution and movement. The Government of West Bengal is keeping constant touch with the various importers of MOP for ensuring its supply and availability. According to the reports received from the State Government, even though shortage of MOP was experienced in the first to third weeks of November, 1998, the situation has now improved.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Drought situation in Orissa

504. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe draught situation prevailing in Orissa;

(b) if so, the total loss of Rabi and Kharif crops sustained by the farmers in the State due to the prevailing drought this year; and

(c) the details of the aid and assistance extended by the Centre to combat the drought situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has reported that 10.66 lakh hectares of Kharif paddy was affected and 1.77 lakh hectares area could not be covered. Damage to Rabi crops has not so far been reported by the State Government.

(c) The entire Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 40.77 crore has already been released to the State. A Memorandum received from the State Government for assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) is under process.

Production of Onions

505. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) total production of onions during the last three years;

(b) shortfall in production of onions during 1997-98 and anticipated shortfall in 1998-99 alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures Government have taken to boost the production of onions;

(d) whether Agriculture Ministry had requested Commerce Ministry to stop exports of the onions or to facilitate import of onions to check domestic prices;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The annual production of onion during last three years at all India level is given as under:—

	(lakh tonnes)
1995-96	40.80
1996-97	44.28
1997-98*	36.80

*Advance estimates

According to the rough estimates, the onion production during 1998-99 is expected to be 44.5 lakh tonnes and thus no shortfall in production is anticipated.

(c) The Government is implementing two central sesctor schemes namely; (i) production and supply of vegetable seeds and (ii) development of root and tuber crops for increasing the production and productivity of vegetables and root & tuber crops. These schemes include development of onion and potato.

(d) to (f) The Ministry of Agriculture at no stage has requested the Ministry of Commerce either for stopping the export or the import of onion. However, in order to bridge the gap between demand and supply, the Government has banned the export of onion and put it on OGL a zero rate of duty.

Financial Assistance to States

506. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) State-wise details of the damage inflicted by floods during 1998-99;

(b) State-wise details of damage as reported by the respective States;

(c) the amount of money sought for by each States as financial assistance and the amount decided to be allocated to different States from the National Calamity Fund;

(d) State-wise details of such funds actually distributed with specific dates thereof; and

(e) whether any of the funds have been allocated or distributed from the fund for National Calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Detailed assessment of damage is made by the State Governments. A statement indicating State-wise extent of damage during 1998-99 due to rains/floods etc. as reported by the States, is annexed.

[*See* Appendix 185, Annexure No, *12*]

(c) to (e) The assistance sought by the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) 1998-99 is indicated below:—

	(Rs. in crore)
Andhra Pradesh	500.00
Arunachal Pradesh	200.23
Assam	1001.98
Bihar	761.96
Gujarat	810.65
Haryana	350.00
Himachal Pradesh	266.06
Karnataka	797.00
Kerala	899.94
Orissa	445.59
Punjab	1043.19
Rajasthan	1500.00
Sikkim	141.41
Tripura	22.53
Uttar Pradesh	2139.49
West Bengal	605.16